Life Course
Negative Outcome

Brief Name
Foster Care Placements

Indicator

Rate of children entering Out-of-Home or foster care per 10,000 youth.

WI	US	Best	Worst
36.03*	33.89	20	100
per 10,000		per 10,000	
Year		**VA**	**WV**
2014			

Numerator
Number of children removed from their home and placed in Out-of-Home care

Denominator
Individuals up to 18 years of age, per 10,000

Description

This measure indicates the rate of children entering into Out-of-Home care through an intervention by the child welfare system. Types of placements include licensed family foster care, treatment foster care, pre-adoptive foster homes, group homes and residential care centers, unlicensed relatives or non-relatives, and court-ordered placements.

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at p<0.05.

Importance

Out-of-Home placements occur to protect children from serious neglect, psychological, emotional and or physical risks. Yet, once removed from their home, these children are at risk of experiencing severed parent-child bonds (Hess, 1991). Such disintegration of the parent-child bond, even if the parent is abusive or neglectful, might have profound implications for a child's development (Bowlby, 2012). Children in foster care or other Out-of-Home placements are also often exposed to traumatic events before removal from home, in addition to potentially experiencing the removal itself as traumatic (Lang, 2016).

Limitations

These data are entered by county systems and thus accuracy depends on uniform data reporting by local programs.

Source

Wisconsin data from eWiSACWIS Out-of-Home Caseload Summary Report, 2014 (http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/OOHC-Y.htm) Comparison state data from Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (http://datacenter.kidscount.org). Lang, Jason M., et al. "Building Capacity for Trauma-Informed Care in the Child Welfare System Initial Results of a Statewide Implementation." Child Maltreatment (2016). Hess, Peg M., and Gail Folaron. "Ambivalences: A challenge to permanency for children." Child Welfare: Journal of Policy, Practice, and Program (1991). Bowlby, John. The making and breaking of affectional bonds. Routledge (2012).